



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

25  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/685,750	10/15/2003	Mark Budzik	TRI4546P0170US	6164
32116	7590	04/10/2006	EXAMINER	
WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ, CLARK & MORTIMER			SPAHN, GAY	
500 W. MADISON STREET			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 3800				3673
CHICAGO, IL 60661				

DATE MAILED: 04/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## SUPPLEMENTAL EXAMINER'S ACTION

### *Response to Argument*

Responsive to Appellant's Reply Brief on 21 March 2005, a supplemental Examiner's Answer is set forth below:

The examiner disagrees with Appellant's assertion on pages 1-2 of his Reply Brief that Hoffman, Sr. does not teach milling or abrading or otherwise roughening the surface of a cover strip. Knurling as taught by Hoffman, Sr. is indeed milling or abrading or otherwise roughening which would increase the surface area to facilitate the ability of a construction adhesive or drywall compound to adhere to the surface of the cover strip.

More particularly, the examiner notes that Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary (Tenth Edition, Copyright 1997, published by Merriam-Webster, Incorporated, Springfield, Massachusetts) defines:

- (1) "abrade" as "1 a: to rub or wear away esp. by friction : erode b : to irritate or roughen by rubbing";
- (2) "mill" as "2 : to give a raised rim or a ridged or corrugated edge to <a coin> 3 : to cut grooves in the metal surface of (as a knob)";
- (3) "knurl" as "1 : a small protuberance, excrescence, or knob 2 : one of a series of small ridges or beads on a metal surface to aid in gripping";
- (4) "perforate" as "to make a hole through <an ulcer ~s the duodenal wall>; esp : to make a line of holes in to facilitate separation; . . . to penetrate a surface."

Clearly, all of these terms have the commonality of roughening a surface in some fashion which increases the surface area and consequently, facilitates the ability of a construction adhesive or drywall compound to adhere to the surface of the cover strip.

Appellant may file another reply brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.41 within two months of the date of mailing of this supplemental examiner's answer. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are not applicable to this two month time period. See 37 CFR 41.43(b)-(c).

A Technology Center Director or designee has approved this supplemental examiner's answer by signing below:

Gay Ann Spahn, Patent Examiner  
March 31, 2006

  
APPROVED BY  
DONALD T. HAJEC  
DIRECTOR, TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600